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CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 08 MAY 2009 200706444

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDO-PAK TENSIONS; MUSHARRAF VISIT TO KABUL; PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION; MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS; TERRORISM

(APRIL 02, 2002)

NEWS:
INDO-PAK TENSIONS
MUSHARRAF VISIT TO KABUL
PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

OPINION:
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
TERRORISM

1. HEADLINES

"WE HAVE NOT HANDED OVER THE ARRESTED AL-QAEDA AND TALIBAN MEMBERS TO THE U.S.: PAKISTANI SPOKESMAN," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (04/02)

"ABU ZUBAIDA IDENTIFIED; 22 PERSONS SHIFTED TO CUBA; 2 AREAS OF TOBA TEK SINGH SURROUNDED TO SEARCH FOR AL-QAEDA MEMBERS; FBI AGENT DISAPPEARS IN WAHNDO," "KHABRAIN" (04/02)

"ISRAEL OCCUPIES BETHLEHEM AND TULKARM ALSO; YASSER ARAFAT SEEKS HELP FROM INDIA," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (04/02)

-- NEWS

-- INDO-PAK TENSIONS

2. "REFERENDUM MAY CAUSE DANGEROUS POLARIZATION," "THE NEWS" (04/02)

QUOTE: PAKISTAN HAS DONE ENOUGH TO CRUSH TERRORISM AND IT WAS NOW TIME FOR NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD TO HOLD TALKS TO EASE THEIR MILITARY STAND OFF, PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF TOLD AN INDIAN NEWSPAPER.... END QUOTE.

-- MUSHARRAF VISIT TO KABUL

3. "MUSHARRAF MAY VISIT KABUL TODAY," "THE NATION" (04/02)

QUOTE: MUSHARRAF IS LIKELY TO HAVE A DAYLONG TRIP TO
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KABUL ON TUESDAY (TODAY) TO MEET INTERIM AFGHAN LEADER HAMID KARZAI AND HIS CABINET MEMBERS AND HOLD NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF BOTH THE COUNTRIES.... END QUOTE.

-- PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

4. "WHAT TURNOUT DO YOU EXPECT IN A REFERENDUM? E-POLL," "THE NATION" (04/02)

LESS THAN 20%	20-40%	OVER 40%
49%	20%	31%

5. "I WAS RELEASED BY THE COURT, NOT THE GOVERNMENT; I REJECT THE REFERENDUM; JAMAAT-A'DAWA TO TAKE PART IN POLITICS: HAFIZ SAEED," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (04/02)

QUOTE: ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS RELEASE, AMEER JAMAAT A'DAWA HAFIZ SAEED SAID THAT HE WAS RELEASED ON THE BASIS OF JUSTICE, NOT ON THE BASIS OF A DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID IN FACT THE GOVERNMENT TRIED ITS LEVEL BEST FOR THE COURT TO

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EXTEND HIS DETENTION. END QUOTE.

OPINION

-- MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

6. "BUSH AND RAMALLAH," AN EDITORIAL IN THE KARACHI-BASED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY, "DAWN" (04/02)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT BUSH'S LATEST COMMENT ON WHATEVER IS GOING ON IN RAMALLAH BORDERS ON THE GROTESQUE. IT ALSO
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GOES TO SHOW HOW POLITICIANS RENOUNCE MORALITY WHEN IT COMES TO SECURING A SECOND TERM.... THAT THE BUSH

ADMINISTRATION IS AS ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE AS THE SHARON GOVERNMENT IS EVIDENT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WHILE IT DID VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ISRAELI PULLOUT FROM PALESTINIAN CITIES, THE AMERICAN DELEGATION WAS ALONE IN CONDEMNING PALESTINIAN "TERRORISTS" FOR THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN THE HOLY LAND.... THE ARAB WORLD IS DOING NOTHING PRACTICAL TO SAVE ARAFAT'S LIFE AND WORK FOR AN ISRAELI PULLOUT. IT IS TRUE THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE ARMED FORCES THAT CAN MATCH ISRAEL'S, BUT IT CERTAINLY HAS FINANCIAL POWER AND DIPLOMATIC CLOUT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND EVEN WI
TH THE U.S.,
BUT THERE IS A MYSTERIOUS RELUCTANCE TO USE WHATEVER ASSETS IT POSSESSES.... IT IS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT SHARON WILL EVER HONOR THE OSLO ACCORD BY AGREEING TO A REVIVAL OF THE PEACE PROCESS, THE IMMEDIATE TASK BEFORE THE ARAB WORLD IS TO ENSURE ARAFAT'S PERSONAL SAFETY AND EXERT PRESSURE ON ITS FRIENDS IN THE WEST FOR AN ISRAELI PULLOUT FROM AREAS UNDER PA CONTROL. END QUOTE.

7. "BUSH WANTS ARAFAT TO DO MORE," AN EDITORIAL IN THE ISLAMABAD'S RIGHTIST ENGLISH DAILY, "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (04/02)

QUOTE: ... IT'S A MATTER OF HISTORY THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF ALL ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS EVER SINCE THE JEWISH STATE'S CREATION.

TO SEEK AN IMPRISONED ARAFAT TO ACT AGAINST 'TERRORISM,' HOWEVER, REPRESENTS A TOTAL LOSS OF THE SENSE OF PROPRIETY ON WASHINGTON'S PART. IT IS REALLY DEPLORABLE THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS BLINDED ITSELF TO WHAT ARIEL SHARON IS DOING TO THE PALESTINIANS IN GENERAL AND YASSER ARAFAT IN PARTICULAR.... PRESIDENT BUSH'S TOTAL SUPPORT TO ARIEL SHARON IS BRUISING HIS IMAGE AND HE FACES MORE AND MORE ISOLATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WITH EVERY PASSING DAY. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE QUESTIONING HIS MIDDLE EAST POLICY, WHILE ARABS ARE SKEPTICAL OF HIS MOTIVES, AS WAS EVIDENT FROM THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO DICK CHENEY'S RECENT HUSH VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SITUATION, THEREFORE, CALLS FOR A PRAGMATIC, OBJECTIVE AND BALANCED THE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AMICABLY. END QUOTE.

8. "VIRTUAL WAR," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTRIST NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NEWS" (04/02)

QUOTE: THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS RAPIDLY

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WORSENING INTO A STATE OF WAR EVEN AS THE ARAB LEAGUE APPROVED THE PRINCE ABDULLAH PROPOSAL, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL REMAINS SEIZED WITH IT AND THE OIC ISSUES DIRE WARNINGS TO ISRAEL WITHOUT ANY AFFECT. WITH U.S. PRESIDENT BUSH USING HIS WAR AGAINST TERRORISM AS A TOUCHSTONE TO MEASURE EVERY SITUATION, THE PALESTINIANS EASILY EMERGE AS THE TROUBLEMAKERS WHILE THE ISRAELIS STAND OUT AS FIGHTERS FOR A NOBLE CAUSE.... ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVENESS RESULTS BOTH FROM THE MASSIVE POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT IT RECEIVES FROM THE U.S. AND THE INABILITY OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND THE ARAB STATES IN PARTICULAR TO DO ANYTHING BEYOND ISSUING WARNINGS AND THREATS.... THE SITUATION

WILL CONSEQUENTLY WORSEN, NOT IMPROVE, WHICH WILL NOT BE HELPFUL. TEL AVIV HAS SHOWN ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL OPINION AND IS NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTIONS THE UN OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION WILL PASS. THE ONLY SOLUTION IS FOR THE ISLAMIC WORLD TO ASSERT ITSELF IN A LANGUAGE THE U.S. AND WEST CAN UNDERSTAND -- POLITICS OF OIL. END QUOTE.

9. "MID-EAST CRISIS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (04/02)

QUOTE: ... AS THE TWO LEADERS HAVE TAKEN MUTUALLY IRRECONCILABLE POSITIONS, IT IS WASHINGTON, THE PRINCIPAL PATRON AND BENEFACTOR OF ISRAEL, WHICH HAS THE POWER, AND INDEED RESPONSIBILITY, TO UNRAVEL THE VICIOUS SKEIN OF HOSTILITIES RAGING ON FOR OVER 18 MONTHS BUT, TRAGICALLY, IT HAS CHOSEN TO PUT THE BLAME ON PALESTINIANS AND THEIR BESIEGED LEADER, IGNORING ISRAELI BRUTALITIES.... WASHINGTON MUST REALIZE THAT UNDER THE PRESENT PHYSICAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS TO WHICH ITS PROTEGE HAS SHACKLED YASSER ARAFAT, IT IS NAIVE TO EXPECT HIM TO DELIVER FIRST. IT IS SHARON WHO HAS TO BE COMPELLED TO SHOW POLITICAL

MATURITY, WITHDRAW FROM THE PALESTINIAN TOWNS HIS FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED, RESTORE ARAFAT'S WRIT, STOP MILITARY ACTION AND ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF SPORADIC EXPRESSION OF PALESTINIAN ANGER FOR SOME TIME. IF THIS IS NOT DONE SOON, A TIME MAY COME WHEN EVEN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MIGHT FIND, LIKE PRESIDENT ARAFAT, THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REIN IN ENRAGED

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ELEMENTS BENT ON PRIVATE RETRIBUTION. MR. SHARON SHOULD DIVERT HIS EFFORTS TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION, ACCEPTING THE EMERGENCE OF PALESTINIAN STATE. END QUOTE.

10. "SIEGE OF ARAFAT," AN OP-ED BY DR. S.M. KORESHI IN THE ISLAMABAD'S RIGHTIST ENGLISH DAILY, "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (04/02)

QUOTE: ... IF ISRAEL OR ITS PATRONS ARE UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS THAT BY KILLING ARAFAT THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT WILL DIE OUT THEY ARE SADLY MISTAKEN. ONCE ARAFAT IS ELIMINATED, HE WILL BECOME A MARTYR AND PALESTINIANS WILL NEVER GIVE UP THEIR STRUGGLE. HE WILL THEN BE REPLACED BY A DEADLIER RESISTANCE STRUGGLE WHICH MAY WELL PAINT THE (WHOLE) MIDDLE EAST BRIGHT RED, NOT ONLY ISRAEL. HAMAS, ISLAMIC JIHAD AND PALESTINIAN FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF PALESTINE ARE DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE DETERRED BY BOMBINGS OR CLUSTER BOMBS. THEY ARE URBAN GUERRILLAS WHO GO UNDER THE SKIN AND CAUSE HAVOC. IF SHARON THINKS THAT ARAFAT WILL SURRENDER HE IS LIVING

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IN A FOOLS PARADISE. ARAFAT TAKES A MODERATE ATTITUDE WHERE THIS APPROACH IS RECIPROCATED BUT WHERE IT IS MISUNDERSTOOD HE CAN BECOME THE GUERRILLA HE IS AND EVERY PALESTINIAN IS.. HIS MESSAGE TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER 1976 - "IN ONE HAND I HAVE AN OLIVE BRANCH AND IN THE OTHER THE GUN. DO NOT LET THE OLIVE BRANCH FALL FROM MY HAND," DESCRIBES HIM MOST ACCURATELY. IN ANY CASE HE IS ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT HE PREFERS TO BE A MARTYR THAN SURRENDER.... END QUOTE.

11. "ISRAELI CRUELTIES: ARABS' AND NON-ARABS'

APATHY," AN EDITORIAL IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY

NAWA-E-WAQT" (04/02)

QUOTE: SUICIDE ATTACKS WILL NOT STOP AND PEACE WILL NOT COME TO THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL AND UNLESS ARIEL SHARON -- THE MAN BEHIND THE SABIRA AND SHATILLA MASSACRE, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING NOT ONLY PALESTINIANS BUT ALSO LEBANESE -- IS URGED TO VACATE LANDS AND PREVENTED FROM AGGRESSIVE ACTS.... THE PRESENT SITUATION IS ALSO A CAUSE OF CONCERN FOR ALL THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TRUSTED U.S. PROMISES AND (DUE TO THIS) MIGHT FACE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE MORE OR LESS SIMILAR TO THE ONES CONFRONTING YASSER ARAFAT AND THE PALESTINIANS.... THE SITUATION CAN WORSEN HERE (IN PAKISTAN) ALSO IF WE GIVE A FREE HAND TO U.S. AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.... END QUOTE.

-- TERRORISM

12. "ARREST OF SUDANESE PILOTS: SATISFY THE NATION BY PROVIDING PROOF," AN EDITORIAL IN THE SENSATIONALIST URDU DAILY "KHABRAIN" (04/02)

QUOTE: PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED 5 SUDANESE TRAINEE PILOTS FROM PESHAWAR. A PRIVATE FLYING CLUB IN PESHAWAR REVEALED THIS, WHILE PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THIS INCIDENT YET.... SEVERAL PAKISTANIS AND FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN PAKISTAN SINCE THE U.S. STARTED THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN. BUT AS OF NOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN THE NATION INTO CONFIDENCE AND HAS NOT REVEALED

AS TO WHY THESE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED.... THE U.S. WAR AGAINST TERRORISM IS PRAISEWORTHY AND NO ONE CAN OBJECT TO PAKISTAN'S WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO IT BECAUSE TERRORISM, WHETHER IT TAKES PLACE WITHIN PAKISTAN OR OUTSIDE, IS CONDEMNABLE. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD TAKE CARE THAT OUR COUNTRY'S HONOR AND DIGNITY ARE NOT NEGLECTED IN THE PROCESS. THE ARREST OF SUDANESE TRAINEE PILOTS IS NOT AN ORDINARY ISSUE. THE GOVERNMENT MUST PRESENT PROOF, IF ANY, AGAINST THEM TO THE NATION, SO THAT PAKISTANIS AND ALSO OTHER COUNTRIES, WHOSE CITIZENS ARE GETTING TRAINING OR EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN, ARE SATISFIED. OTHERWISE

PAKISTAN WILL BE MALIGNED AND FOREIGNERS WILL REFRAIN FROM COMING HERE FOR EDUCATION. THE GOVERNMENT MUST REALIZE THIS AND TAKE STEPS TO SATISFY THE NATION. END QUOTE.

13. "HANDING OVER AL-QAEDA," AN EDITORIAL IN THE PESHAWAR-BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (04/02)

QUOTE: ... ACCORDING TO PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES, MEMBERS OF THE AL-QAEDA NETWORK WERE NABBED DURING AN

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDO-PAK TENSIONS; MUSHARRAF VISIT TO KABUL; PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION; MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS; TERRORISM

OPERATION IN WHICH THE LOCAL POLICE AND FBI WORKED CLOSELY. THE EXTENT OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION CAN BE GAUGED BY A POLICE SOURCE'S DISCLOSURE THAT "THE AMERICANS WERE ARMED AND MASKED. THEY DID NOT GO INSIDE THE HOUSES BUT STOOD OUTSIDE." IF THE POLICE REVELATION HAS A MODICUM OF TRUTH IN IT, THIS BELIES THE GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM THAT NO AMERICAN ACCOMPANIED THE POLICE IN THE RAID AND THAT THE ROLE OF THE FBI WAS CONFINED TO THAT OF MERE INFORMATION SHARING. NO MATTER WHAT SPIN THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TRY TO IMPART TO THIS EPISODE, THERE IS A SENSE OF DEJA VU ABOUT IT. IT RESURRECTS MEMORIES OF THE AIMAL KANSI CASE IN WHICH HE WAS ARRESTED BY AMERICAN COMMANDOS FROM

SOUTHERN PUNJAB AND WHISKED AWAY TO THE U.S. WITHOUT EVEN FULFILLING THE FORMALITIES REQUIRED FOR HIS EXTRADITION. HEREIN LIES THE RUB IN SO FAR AS THE POLICE-FBI RAID ON THE PUTATIVE AL-QAEDA TERRORISTS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT HANDING OVER TO THE U.S. IS CONCERNED. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY WAS THE FBI PERMITTED TO ORCHESTRATE THE OPERATION INSIDE THE COUNTRY? SECOND, WHAT NATIONAL LAW OR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WAS FOLLOWED IN THE HANDING OVER TO THE U.S. THE PERSONS ARRESTED BY THE FBI-POLICE JOINT TEAM? THIRD, WHY WAS THE COUNTRY'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM BYPASSED? FOURTH, WOULD THE GOVERNMENT HAVE HANDED OVER THE ARRESTED PERSONS IF ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UBIQUITOUS AND OMNIPOTENT U.S. HAD MADE THE REQUEST?... WHAT MAY NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH THE PEOPLE THOUGH, IS THE HANDING OVER TO THE U.S. WITHOUT MAKING THE ARRESTED PERSONS UNDERGO THE PRESCRIBED JUDICIAL PROCESS. IF THEY WERE CAUGHT INSIDE THE COUNTRY, THEY

SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST PRODUCED BEFORE A COURT OF LAW HERE AND INDICTED ACCORDINGLY. ANYBODY FOUND VIOLATING THE LAW OF THE LAND IS ANSWERABLE TO THAT COUNTRY'S COURT.... END QUOTE. SISON

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